

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated November 06, 2002. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 13, 14 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Perrulli (USP 5,842,444). Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Perrulli '444. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.


Independent claims 1 has been amended to recite a golf bag securing strap whereby the "article-holding strap" 40 includes a slidable ring 52 to permit the second releasable fastener 48 to secure a golf bag in the position shown in Figures 3, 4 and 5. As shown in Figure 4, the second releasable fastener 48 is releasably attached to the ring 52 to provide a versatile yet strong attachment position for a golf bag. With respect to amended independent claim 22, the structure of this invention provides an arrangement whereby the article-holding strap is adapted to slide along an entire length of the article-engaging strap via the slidable ring 28.

As discussed during the telephonic interview conducted on February 03, 2003, the prior art fails to disclose the arrangement of amended claims 1-22 because Perrulli '444 is a dog leash. Moreover, the dog leash of Perrulli '444 cannot be interconnected to provide the attachment position shown in Figure 4 of the instant patent application. With respect to claim 22, the sliding ring 26 of Perrulli '444 is on the sliding band 20 – not on the article-engaging strap – and is limited to 180° of movement. It would not be possible or permitted to modify the teaching of Perrulli '444

to provide the arrangement of the claimed invention because the article-engaging strap (the waistband 12a) tightly fits to the user's body and includes a rubber stitch material 28a to prevent slipping of the waistband.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to teach or render obvious the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments and comments resolve all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe additional discussion would advance the prosecution of the present application, they are invited to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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